

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 4:21-CR-578 SEP/SRW
	)	
CONNOR BRUEGGEMANN,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**GUILTY PLEA AGREEMENT**

Come now the parties and hereby agree as follows:

**1. PARTIES**

The parties are the defendant CONNOR BRUEGGEMANN, represented by defense counsel Ken Schwartz, the United States of America (hereinafter “Government”), represented by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. This agreement does not, and is not intended to, bind any governmental office or agency other than the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. The Court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement.

**2. GUILTY PLEA**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(A), in exchange for the defendant’s voluntary plea of guilty to Count Two of the charge, the Government agrees to move for the dismissal as to the defendant of Count One at the time of sentencing. Moreover, the United States agrees that no further federal prosecution will be brought in this District relative to the defendant’s possession or receipt of child pornography between October 10, 2019 and July 14, 2020, of which the Government is aware at this time.

In addition, the parties agree that the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level analysis agreed to by the parties herein is the result of negotiation and led, in part, to the guilty plea. The parties further agree that either party may request a sentence above or below the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines range (combination of Total Offense Level and Criminal History Category) ultimately determined by the Court pursuant to any chapter of the Guidelines and Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a). The parties further agree that notice of any such request will be given no later than ten days prior to sentencing and that said notice shall specify the legal and factual bases for the request.

The defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States all property subject to forfeiture under the applicable statute(s), and the defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives any right, title, and interest in all items (including all data contained therein) seized by law enforcement officials during the course of their investigation, whether or not they are subject to forfeiture, and agrees not to contest the vesting of title of such items in the United States. The defendant agrees that said items may be disposed of by law enforcement officials in any manner.

The Parties agree to jointly recommend a sentence of 52 months imprisonment.

### **3. ELEMENTS**

The defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(5)(B), and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime of Possession of Child Pornography which he admits to knowingly committing and for which he admits there is a factual basis are:

- (1) defendant knowingly possessed material that contained images of child pornography;

(2) which were visual depictions where the production of such visual depictions involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and such visual depictions were of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; and

(3) those images are contained on material that has been transported in interstate commerce and were themselves transported in interstate commerce.

#### **4. FACTS**

The parties agree that the facts in this case are as follows and that the Government would prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt if the case were to go to trial. These facts may be considered as relevant conduct pursuant to Section 1B1.3:

On or about May 4, 2020, detectives with the Saint Louis County Human Trafficking Task Force received information from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that an identified user had electronically uploaded 44 files containing child pornography on October 10, 2019. Detectives were able to determine the user was Connor Brueggemann (“defendant”)

On or about July 14, 2020, detectives executed a search warrant at the defendant’s residence. On this same day, the defendant agreed to speak with detectives regarding the purpose of the search. The defendant explained that he was employed as a music teacher at a local elementary school. He stated that he lived at his residence for approximately 19 years with his parents and siblings. The defendant provided detectives with two laptop computers and two cell phones, along with the passwords. The defendant stated that he had done “terrible things” and wanted to get help with his addiction to child pornography. The defendant stated that he began viewing child pornography after viewing hentai on his cellular phone approximately one year prior to the date of the search warrant. The defendant further stated that he used several

different electronic applications to view child pornography. The defendant stated that he communicated with individuals as young as 16 online. The defendant also stated that he possessed both video and image files depicting girls 15-17 years old, and had seen images depicting children of a much younger age.

Upon review of the electric devices recovered during the execution of the search warrant, detectives determined the defendant possessed over 360 media items that were immediately recognized as “Illegal-Child Sexual Abuse Material” and 786 files as “Child Exploitative/Age Difficult”. Many images depict infants and toddlers in sexual acts, including bestiality and penetration.

## **5. STATUTORY PENALTIES**

The defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for the crime of Possession of Child Pornography to which the defendant is pleading guilty is imprisonment of not more than ten years, and a fine of not more than \$250,000. The Court may also impose a period of supervised release of not more than life and not less than five years.

If the defendant has a prior conviction under section 1591, chapter 71, chapter 109A, chapter 110, chapter 117, or under section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under the laws of any State relating to aggravated sexual abuse, sexual abuse, or abusive sexual conduct involving a minor or ward, or the production, possession, receipt, mailing, sale, distribution, shipment, or transportation of child pornography, or sex trafficking of children, such person shall be fined and imprisoned to not less than 10 years nor more than 20.

The defendant is pleading guilty with full knowledge of these possibilities, has discussed these possibilities with counsel and will not be able to withdraw the guilty plea if the Court determines the foregoing statute applies to defendant's sentence.

Additionally, per 18 U.S.C. § 2259A, defendant fully understands that for offenses committed on or after December 7, 2018, in addition to other assessments, the Court may impose an assessment for each count of no more than:

- (1) \$17,000.00 if convicted of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4) or § 2252A(a)(5), regarding the possession of, or access with intent to view, child pornography.

**Possibility of Enhanced Criminal Status:** In certain situations, defendant may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence and a maximum sentence greater than described above. Below are some of the provisions that have increased sentences for certain prior convictions:

Production of Child Pornography 18 U.S.C. § 2251(e)	a. One prior conviction: 25 years to 50 years b. Two or more prior convictions: 35 years to life.
Distribution, Transportation or Receipt of Child Pornography 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(b)(1) and 2252A(b)(1)	One or more prior convictions: 15 years to 40 years
Possession or Access with the Intent to View Child Pornography  18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(b)(2) and 2252A(b)(2)	One or more prior convictions: 10 years to 20 years
Travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct; and Engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places 18 U.S.C. § 2426(a)	One or more prior convictions: Up to 90 years
For offenses under 1591 (relating to sex trafficking of children), 2241 (relating to aggravated sexual abuse), 2242 (relating to sexual abuse), 2244(a)(1) (relating to abusive sexual contact), 2245 (relating to sexual abuse resulting in death), 2251 (relating to sexual exploitation of children), 2251A (relating to	If convicted of one of these offenses in which a minor is the victim and the person has a prior sex conviction in which a minor is a victim, the term of imprisonment is life, unless a sentence of death is imposed.

selling or buying children), 2422(b) (relating to coercion or enticement of a minor into prostitution) (unless 3559(e)(3) applies) or 2423(a) relating to transportation of minors) (unless 3559(e)(3) applies). 18 U.S.C. § 3559(e)	
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The defendant is pleading guilty with full knowledge of these, as well as other possibilities, has discussed the possibilities with counsel and will not be able to withdraw the guilty plea if the Court determines that the defendant is subject to different minimum or maximum sentences than described herein.

**6. U. S. SENTENCING GUIDELINES (2021 MANUAL)**

The defendant understands that this offense is affected by the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the actual sentencing range is determined by both the Total Offense Level and the Criminal History Category. The parties agree that the following are the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level provisions that apply.

**a. Chapter 2 Offense Conduct:**

(1) **Base Offense Level:** The parties agree that the base offense level is eighteen, as found in Section 2G2.2(a)(1).

(2) **Specific Offense Characteristics:** The parties agree that the following Specific Offense Characteristics apply:

- (a) two (2) levels should be added pursuant to Section 2G2.2(b)(2), because "the material involved a prepubescent minor or a minor who had not attained the age of 12 years"; and
- (b) two (2) levels should be added pursuant to Section 2G2.2(b)(6), because "the offense involved the use of a computer or an

interactive computer service for the possession, transmission, receipt, or distribution of the material”;

(c) four (4) levels should be added pursuant to Section 2G2.2(b)(7), because “the offense involved at least 350 images, but fewer than 600”;

(d) four (4) levels should be added pursuant to Section 2G2.2(b)(4), because “the offense involved material that portrays sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence”.

**b. Chapter 3 Adjustments:**

**(1) Acceptance of Responsibility:** The parties agree that three levels should be deducted pursuant to Section 3E1.1(a) and (b), because the defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility and timely notified the Government of the defendant’s intention to plead guilty. The parties agree that the defendant’s eligibility for this deduction is based upon information presently known. If the Government subsequently receives new evidence of statements or conduct by the defendant which it believes are inconsistent with defendant’s eligibility for this deduction, the Government may present said evidence to the Court and argue that the defendant should not receive all or part of the deduction pursuant to Section 3E1.1 without violating the plea agreement.

**c. Estimated Total Offense Level:** The parties estimate that the Total Offense Level is twenty-seven. Although this is estimated Total Offense Level, the parties agree to jointly recommend a sentence of 52 months imprisonment.

**d. Criminal History:** The determination of the defendant's Criminal History Category shall be left to the Court. Either party may challenge, before and at sentencing, the finding of the Presentence Report as to the defendant's criminal history and the applicable category. The defendant's criminal history is known to the defendant and is substantially available in the Pretrial Services Report.

**e. Effect of Parties' U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Analysis:** The parties agree that the Court is not bound by the Guidelines analysis agreed to herein. The parties may not have foreseen all applicable Guidelines. The Court may, in its discretion, apply or not apply any Guideline despite the agreement herein, and the parties shall not be permitted to withdraw from the plea agreement. The Government recognizes it is bound by the specific agreements made herein but reserves the right to answer any questions the U.S. Probation Office or the Court might have related to sentencing or present evidence at the Court's request.

## **7. WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS**

**a. Appeal:** The defendant has been fully apprised by defense counsel of the defendant's rights concerning appeal and fully understands the right to appeal the sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742.

**(1) Non-Sentencing Issues:** The parties waive all rights to appeal all non-jurisdictional, non-sentencing issues, including, but not limited to, any issues relating to pretrial motions, discovery and the guilty plea, the constitutionality of the statute(s) to which defendant is pleading guilty and whether defendant's conduct falls within the scope of the statute(s).

**(2) Sentencing Issues:** In the event the Court accepts the plea, accepts the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level agreed to herein, and, after determining a Sentencing Guidelines range, sentences the defendant within or below that range, then, as part of this



agreement, the defendant hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, but only if it affects the Base Offense Level or Criminal History Category. Similarly, the Government hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, provided the Court accepts the plea, adopts the agreed Total Offense Level, and sentences the defendant within or above that range.

b. **Habeas Corpus**: The defendant agrees to waive all rights to contest the conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including one pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, except for claims of prosecutorial misconduct or ineffective assistance of counsel.

c. **Right to Records**: The defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 522, or the Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(a).

## 8. **OTHER**

a. **Disclosures Required by the United States Probation Office**: The defendant agrees to truthfully complete and sign forms as required by the United States Probation Office prior to sentencing and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the Government.

b. **Civil or Administrative Actions not Barred; Effect on Other Government Agencies**: Nothing contained herein limits the rights and authority of the United States to take any civil, tax, immigration/deportation, or administrative action against the defendant.

c. **Supervised Release**: Pursuant to any supervised release term, the Court will impose standard conditions upon the defendant and may impose special conditions related to the crime

defendant committed. Some of these special conditions may include that defendant not possess a computer or internet access, that defendant not have contact with minors without the authorization of the Probation Officer, that defendant participate in sexual offender counseling, and that defendant not maintain a post office box. In addition, as a condition of supervised release, the defendant shall initially register with the state sex offender registration in Missouri and shall also register with the state sex offender registration agency in any state where defendant resides, is employed, works, or is a student, as directed by the Probation Officer. The defendant shall comply with all requirements of federal and state sex offender registration laws.

These and any other special conditions imposed by the Court will be restrictions with which defendant will be required to adhere. Violation of the conditions of supervised release resulting in revocation may require the defendant to serve a term of imprisonment equal to the length of the term of supervised release, but not greater than the term set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(e)(3), without credit for the time served after release. The defendant understands that parole has been abolished.

**d. Mandatory Special Assessment:** Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, the Court is required to impose a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count for a total of \$100, which the defendant agrees to pay at the time of sentencing. Money paid by the defendant toward any restitution or fine imposed by the Court shall be first used to pay any unpaid mandatory special assessment.

Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3014, for offenses occurring on or after May 29, 2015, and before February 19, 2022, the Court is required to impose an assessment of \$5,000 on any non-indigent defendant convicted of an offense under –

- (1) Chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children, including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. §2251(a) (production of child pornography) and 18 U.S.C. § 2252A (transportation, distribution, receipt, possession, or access with the intent to view child pornography));

The assessment imposed under 18 U.S.C. § 3014 is in addition to the mandatory special assessment imposed under 18 U.S.C. § 3013.

e. **Possibility of Detention:** The defendant may be subject to immediate detention pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3143. Defense counsel reserves the right to argue for release.

f. **Fines, Restitution and Costs of Incarceration and Supervision:** The Court may impose a fine, restitution (in addition to any penalty authorized by law), costs of incarceration and costs of supervision. The defendant agrees that any fine or restitution imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3663A and 2259, an order of restitution is mandatory for all crimes listed in Sections 3663A(c) and 2259. Regardless of the Count of conviction, the amount of mandatory restitution imposed shall include all amounts allowed by Sections 3663A(b) and 2259 and the amount of loss agreed to by the parties, including all relevant conduct loss. The defendant agrees to provide full restitution to all victims of all charges in the indictment without regard to the count or counts to which the defendant has agreed to plead guilty. Under Section 2259(c)(3), the minimum amount of restitution per victim for each count of conviction is \$3000 for crimes occurring on and after December 7, 2018.

g. **Forfeiture:** The defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives any right, title, and interest in all items seized by law enforcement officials during the course of their investigation, whether or not they are subject to forfeiture, and agrees not to contest the vesting of title of such items in the United States. The defendant agrees to abandon [his/her] interest in all seized items and further agrees that said items may be disposed of or destroyed by law enforcement officials in

any manner without further notice. By abandoning these items, the defendant waives any future rights to receive additional notice, a valuation of the items, or the opportunity to submit a claim to contest the disposition or destruction of the items that may exist under any policies or procedures of the seizing agency(ies).

**9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS**

In pleading guilty, the defendant acknowledges, fully understands, and hereby waives his rights, including but not limited to: the right to plead not guilty to the charges; the right to be tried by a jury in a public and speedy trial; the right to file pretrial motions, including motions to suppress or exclude evidence; the right at such trial to a presumption of innocence; the right to require the Government to prove the elements of the offenses charged against the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt; the right not to testify; the right not to present any evidence; the right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; and the right to testify and present evidence and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses. The defendant further understands that by this guilty plea, the defendant expressly waives all the rights set forth in this paragraph.

The defendant fully understands that the defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, to have the Court appoint counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. The defendant's counsel has explained these rights and the consequences of the waiver of these rights. The defendant fully understands that, as a result of the guilty plea, no trial will, in fact, occur and that the only action remaining to be taken in this case is the imposition of the sentence.

The defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, the defendant will be subject to federal and state sex offender registration requirements and that those requirements may apply for life. The defendant understands that the defendant must keep said registrations current, shall notify the

state sex offender registration agency or agencies of any changes in name, place of residence, employment, or student status, or other relevant information. The defendant shall comply with requirements to periodically verify in person said sex offender registration information. The defendant understands that the defendant will be subject to possible federal and state penalties for failure to comply with any such sex offender registration requirements. If the defendant resides in Missouri following release from prison, the defendant will be subject to the registration requirements of Missouri state law. The defendant further understands that, under 18 U.S.C. § 4042(c), notice will be provided to certain law enforcement agencies upon release from confinement following conviction. Defense counsel has advised the defendant of the possible sex offender registration consequences resulting from the plea.

The defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives any rights and defenses defendant may have under the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution to the forfeiture of property in this proceeding or any related civil proceeding, special or other assessment, and any order of restitution.

If the defendant is not a U.S. citizen, the guilty plea could impact the defendant's immigration status or result in deportation. In particular, if any crime to which the defendant is pleading guilty is an "aggravated felony" as defined by Title 8, United States Code, Section 1101(a)(43), removal or deportation is presumed mandatory. Defense counsel has advised the defendant of the possible immigration consequences, including deportation, resulting from the plea.

The defendant is fully satisfied with the representation received from defense counsel. The defendant has reviewed the Government's evidence and discussed the Government's case and all possible defenses and defense witnesses with defense counsel. Defense counsel has completely

and satisfactorily explored all areas which the defendant has requested relative to the Government's case and any defenses.

**10. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GUILTY PLEA AND PLEA AGREEMENT**

This document constitutes the entire agreement between the defendant and the Government, and no other promises or inducements have been made, directly or indirectly, by any agent of the Government, including any Department of Justice attorney, concerning any plea to be entered in this case. In addition, the defendant states that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced the defendant to do or refrain from doing anything in connection with any aspect of this case, including entering a plea of guilty.

The defendant acknowledges having voluntarily entered into both the plea agreement and the guilty plea. The defendant further acknowledges that this guilty plea is made of the defendant's own free will and that the defendant is, in fact, guilty.

**11. CONSEQUENCES OF POST-PLEA MISCONDUCT**

After pleading guilty and before sentencing, if the defendant commits any crime other than minor traffic offenses, violates any conditions of release that results in revocation, violates any term of this guilty-plea agreement, intentionally provides misleading, incomplete or untruthful information to the U.S. Probation Office, or fails to appear for sentencing, the United States, at its option, may be released from its obligations under this agreement. The Government may also, in its discretion, proceed with this agreement and may advocate for any sentencing position supported by the facts, including but not limited to obstruction of justice and denial of acceptance of responsibility.

**12. NO RIGHT TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c) and (d), the defendant understands that there will be no right to withdraw the plea entered under this agreement, except where the Court rejects those portions of the plea agreement which deal with charges the Government agrees to dismiss or not to bring.

7/28/2022

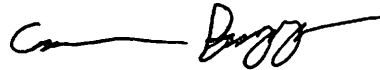
Date

Dianna R. Collins

DIANNA R. COLLINS, 59641MO  
Assistant United States Attorney

7/27/22

Date



CONNOR BRUEGGEMANN  
Defendant

7/27/22  
Date

  
KEN SCHWARTZ  
Attorney for Defendant